The New British Empire

Meaning of The New British Empire:-

In 1783, England lost Thirteen American Colonies which resulted in great loss to England in the field of trade and industry. Canada, India, Australia and South Africa were jointly called the 'New British Empire'.

Features of The New British Empire:-

1) Towards complete self-government:- Every arrangement for the Constitutional Evolution was made so that the Colonies should reach their goal step by step. → To begin with military governments, they were given representatives governments so that people of the colonies should be able to send their representatives in the government.

2) Economic Cooperation:- In the old empire the mercantilist policy was followed by which the colonies were exploited by Britain for her own interests.

Growth of The New British Empire:-

1) Canada:-

→ Canada was discovered by a sailor named Jacques Cartier in 1534. During the 17th century, a large number of French sailors arrived and established a French colony there. By the Treaty of Paris, 1763, Canada came under the British control.

→ In 1867, Canada was given the status of a Dominion. A parliament with Two Houses was formed.

2) Australia:- was discovered by Captain Cook between 1768 and 1779. The British govt started sending

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convicts to Sydney in Australia.

→ In 1900, The British govt passed the Australian Commonwealth Act, whereby they grouped six colonies of Australia in the commonwealth.

3) New Zealand:- From 1817 The English started settling in New Zealand and in 1839 the British Govt took legal possession of the New Zealand by making the Treaty of Waitangi with the Maories.

→ In 1852, New Zealand was granted a responsible government.

4) South Africa:- In 1652, the Dutch started settling in Africa. After 1815, The British also started settling there. In 1833 The British govt granted South Africa the states of the Crown Colony.

→ In 1909, a federal state of Africa by the name of 'Union of South Africa' was established.

5) Egypt:- In 1875 Disraeli purchased 40% shares of the Suez Canal from King Ismail of Egypt. From 1879-1883, Egypt remained under the dual control of England and France.

→ In 1936, Egypt was granted completed independence.

6) India:- In 1857, the British govt took over the administration by dissolving the East India Company.

→ In 1919, Dyarchy was introduced.

→ In 1935, Govt of India Act was passed.

→ On 14 August, Pak and India were created.

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The British Commonwealth

→ All nations (British Colonies) who are member of the British Commonwealth are equal in status and believe in mutual cooperation. They are completely independent to move in or move out of the Commonwealth.

Growth of the Idea of the British Commonwealth:-

Britain's new attitude which was based on friendship generosity and cooperation rather than on economic exploitation gave birth to the idea of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

1) The Durham Report:-
People of Canada soon became sick of the British domination. In 1823 Lord Durham was sent there to report about the state affairs prevailing there.

2) Settlement of Britishers in Colonies:-

3) Revolutionary ideas of the Maories in New Zealand:-

4) Competition in Imperialism:-

5) Raw material for English industries and market for her products:-

6) Development of the means of communication:-

7) Balfour Declaration of 1929:- The colonies which now became the dominions, have full rights of self-government.

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British Foreign Policy 1870-1914

Splendid Isolation Policy

Meaning of the Splendid Isolation:-

→ Since the defeat of Napolean in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, England's foreign policy is generally known as the policy of 'Splendid Isolation'. By this policy England kept herself aloof from European politics, alliances and wars and tried to resolve the issues through mutual discussions through the 'Concert of Europe'.

→ On the other hand, the other countries had to go in for alliances because their naval forces were very small as compared to English naval force. Consequently, England felt no need of any alliance.

→ England tried to keep aloof from various entanglements but when she found that this isolation affected her imperialistic interests then she certainly intervened in them. For instance in 1877, when the Turks massacred a large number of Christians in Bulgaria then Gladstone asked the then PM Disraeli to throw off them with bag and baggage from Bulgaria.

Factors which favoured the Splendid Isolation Policy

1- Entanglement in domestic and Imperial problems:-

→ demand for the introductions of reforms gained momentum.

→ Irish Question

→ Problems created by British Colonies

2- Too powerful and formidable Navy.

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3. Regarding war as Undesirable:-
From 1815 - 1914, England had many such PMs who thought that wars were quite undesirable and they had faith in 'Diplomacy by Conferences.'

4- Heavy Import Duty on British Goods:- Under these circumstances, England started searching for new markets. So, her attention was shifted from the European politics to her colonies.

5- Indifference to Alliances:-
a) → Mutual alliance of Russia and France
b) → Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy.

Splendid Isolation Policy in Actual working:-

England adopted the policy of 'Isolation' which continued to be followed after 1815 till 1914 under the government of many PMs but they had to intervene to save the British Empire and their imperialistic interests.

Reasons for abondoning the Splendid Isolation Policy:-

1- Germany's attempt To become a First Rate Power:-
→ In the later half of the 19th century, Germany became a strong and a united country under the leadership of Bismarck.
→ In 1870, she defeated France.
→ In 1882, she formed Tripple Alliance with Italy and Austria.
→ In 1897, William II passing the Naval Law and started capturing colonies.

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2- Diplomatic defeat of England:- She suffered diplomatic set-backs in the partition of Africa, in Egypt and over the Eastern Question.

3- Strained relations between France and England:- Due to French colonies in Mid-Africa.

→ But Delcase, FM of France was in favour of having friendly relations with England.

4- Strained relations between Russia and England:-

Russia and England had very strained relations in the Balkans and the Eastern countries.

→ France made efforts to create friendly relations between England and Russia.

→ In this way by 1907, England completely abondoned her policy of isolation and formed the Triple Alliance with Russia and France as her partners.

Anglo-Japanese Convention of 1902:-

→ England wanted to check the increasing influence of Russia in the East. She tried to check the Russian influence by concluding an alliance with Germany in 1900 but there being no permanent alliance between the two

→ England was forced to establish friendly relations with Japan.

→ On the other hand, Japan had also started expanding her colonial empire in Asia by defeating China in 1895. She wanted to check the materialistic policy of the European nations with the help of England.

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Anglo-French Entente of 1904:-

Causes :-

1- The increasing power of Germany made the two forget their old enemity and compelled them to jointly face a common foe.
2- England was afraid of the increasing naval force and military preparations of Germany.
3- The policy of Pan-Germanism also helped in bringing England and France nearer to each other.
4- Germany took the side of the Boers against the English in the Boer War.
5- England wanted to move her fleet from the Mediterranean Sea to the North Sea so as to check the increasing naval force of Germany.
6- The British ruler Edward VIII also hated Germany and was more inclined towards France. His visit to France in 1903 helped in bringing two nations together.

Triple Entente of 1907

Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907:-

1- England always opposed the Russian policy in Balkans Their interests clashed in China, Persia, Tibet and Far East.
2- Anglo-Japanese convention of 1902 to check the influence of Russia.
3- France had established an alliance with the English in 1904 and she had already entered into an alliance with Russia.
4- Russia had received a great set-back to her position due to the Russo-Japanese war.

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She wanted to gain her lost prestige.

5 → While England was also afraid of the increasing power of Germany.

Main provisions of Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907:-

1- England recognized the Russian position in northern Persia and Russia recognized the English interests in the Southern Paris.

2- Both the countries would not intervene in the Tibetan affairs.

3- Russia would give up her interests in Afghanistan.

Formation of Triple Entente of 1907:-

This was not a military type of alliance but the three countries decided to consult one another in the international problems.

Criticism:-

1- This divided Europe into two (1) England + France + Russia hostile and armed (2) Austria, Hungary, Germany + Italy camps.

2- Arms rate started between them.

3- This groupism paved the way for the 1st World War.

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The First World War and After

→ In 1879, Germany entered into an alliance with Austria-Hungary.
→ In 1882, Italy joined the Austro-German Alliance.
→ In 1902, England entered into an alliance with Japan.
→ In 1907, England and France entente.
→ In 1907 England signed the Anglo-Russian Convention with Russia.
→ On June 28, 1914 AD, the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife paid a visit to Sarajevo, a city of Bosnia. He was killed by a protestant in Bosnia.
→ Austria on July 28, 1914 declared war on Serbia.
→ On July 31, 1914, Russia declared the war taking Serbia's side.
→ On January 1918, Woodrow Wilson's peace aims were set out in his 14 points.
→ In January 1919, a peace conference met at Versailles.
→ On June 28, 1919, the Treaty of Versailles between the Allies and Germany was signed.
→ In 1923, the Treaty Lausanne was signed between Greece and Turkey.

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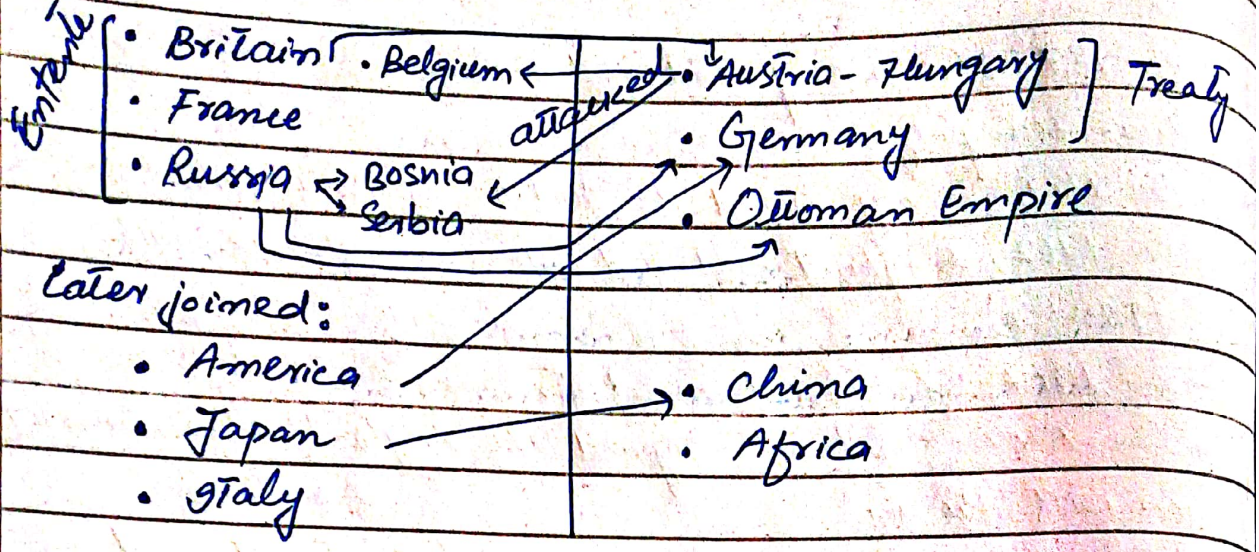
Allied Powers. V/S Central Powers.



Causes of First World War:-

Immediate Cause:

Was the murder of Archduke Ferdinand who was the heir to the Austrian throne. There was going on rivalry between Austria-Hungary and Serbia on the Balkans. After 1909, intensity of this rivalry increased. The Balkan wars of 1912-13 added to the territory, population and resources of Serbia.

→ Austria-Hungary was already sick of Serbia and she decided to take advantage of the new situation to crush her. She declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914.

MAIN Causes:-

M= Militarism:- Germany and England entered into a race of naval armaments. For every ship built by Germany, five ships were built by England.

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A = Alliances:- Before 1914, Europe was divided into two armed camps.

1) England, France, Russia, Japan
2) Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, Italy

I = Imperialism:- Germany tried to capture markets which were already in the hands of the English that led to bitterness between the two countries.

N = Narrow Nationalism and Competitive Patriotism:-

Some other causes:-

1) **Poisoning of the public opinion by the Newspapers:-** Newspapers in all countries tried to inflame national ist feelings by misrepresenting the situation in other countries.

2) **The Character of William II:-** was the Emperor of Germany. He believed in a policy of "world power or down-fall."

3) **French desire to get back Alsace-Lorraine:-** which had been snatched away from them in 1871. There was also economic motive for getting back Alsace-Lorraine (Iron-steel).

4) **No power and machinery to control and enforce international relations and law:-**
→ There was anarchy in the international relations of the various countries.

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→ Many resolutions were passed at the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907 but those were observed by the various states according to their convenience.

5) Permeation of Germany by the Prussian Spirit:- According to that spirit, "He who succeeds is never in the wrong." Victory was identified with morality. The Prussians were taught that war was the most logical thing in the world. and the Germans were greatly influenced by this spirit.

Events of the First World War:-

1) England could not save Belgium:- The German steam-roller was able enough to smash the resistance of the people of Belgium.

2) There was a bitter fighting on the French soil:- The Battle of Verdum decided the fortunes of war in favour of the Allies.

3) Russia fought on the side of the Allies upto 1917: when a revolution took place in that country. The Czarist regime was overthrown and power was ultimately captured by Lenin and his followers. The Bolshevist regime in Russia wanted peace, thus the treaty of Brest Litovsk was signed between Germany and Russia.

4) Entrance of USA:- After the defection of Russia, USA came to help the Allies in 1917. The Lusitania, an American ship, was tropedoed by a German

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submarine. Resultantly, many Americans lost their lives. Thus President Wilson declared war against Germany.

5) Defeat To Germany:- Despite her best efforts Germany could not stand and eventually surrendered in November 1918.

6) Defeat To Turkey:- Turkey fought on the side of Central Powers yet she was defeated and she had to surrender.

7) Japan declared war against the Central Powers in 1914; although China also joined the Allies yet she was presented with 21 demands by Japan. Most of her demands were conceded and China virtually came under the control of Japan.

Effects of The War on the Home Front:-

1) Women's Service Contribution:- As more and more men joined the army, women began to fill the vacancies in a wide variety of jobs that had previously been done by men.

2) Representation of the People Act, June 1918:- This gave the vote to women at the age of 31 and to all males at the age of 21.

3) Government control on Industry and Labour:-

i) Male conscription: most men aged 18 to 41 were compelled to join the armed forces.

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ii) Uplift of Trade Unions:-

iii) Food shortage and its remedy:-

iv) Timing of Public houses was reduced:- from midday to 2:30 p.m. and from 6:0 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

4) Education Act of 1918:-

→ This Act raised the school-leaving age to 14.

→ made teachers salaries uniform throughout the country.

→ more free places for bright children at Secondary schools.

5) Fall of Liberal Party:- due to the Split between the Lloyd George and Asquith.

6) Raise of Labour Party:-

7) Economic Effects:- Britain had lost some 40% of her merchant shipping and had run up enormous war debts, mainly to the USA, which would have to be repaid with interest.

The Peace Settlement

A peace Conference met at Versailles in January 1919 to decide what should be done with the defeated power. The Three most important people at the conference turned out to be Lloyd George of Britain, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson of USA.

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1) Lloyd George at the conference argued that a lenient approach to Germany was essential so that she could not become embittered and so that international trade could settle down to normal again.

2) Clemenceau of the French wanted the harshest possible treatment of Germany in revenge for France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian war (1870-71) and in payment for all the damage inflicted by the Germany over the previous four years.

3) American President Woodrow Wilson's peace aim was set out in his 14 points, issued in January 1918 and emphasised the idea of national self-determination.

1) Treaty of Versailles dealt with Germany:- was signed on June 28, 1919.

→ Germany had to lose territory in Europe which came Belgium, France, Poland and under the administration of League of Nations.

→ The Reparations Commission was duly appointed and ultimately fixed the war-indemnity at 54 bn dollars.

2) Treaty of St. Germane, 1919:- was made between Austria-Hungary and the allies.

→ Austria recognised the complete independence of Hungary.

→ She gave many territories which were formerly included in Austria-Hungary.

→ The Reparations Commission was to fix indemnity for the war +

3) Treaty of Sevres, 1920:- was made between Turkey and the Allies.

→ Turkey had to lose her many territories which came under the control of England France, Greece, Poland and the League of Nations.

→ Turkey was to pay a huge war-indemnity.

→ The Treaty led to rise of Mustafa Kamal.

→ A war broke out between Greece and Turkey which came to an under the Treaty of Lausanne.

→ Turkey got back some of her areas.

Criticism on the Peace Settlement:-

1) Carthagian Peace:-

2) Dictated Peace:- The Germans were not in the mood to accept the treaty and it was only when they were threatened with the invasion of the country that they surrendered.

3) Spirit of Revenge:- The harsh treatment of Germany by the Settlement of 1919 and the subsequent behaviour of the Allies, particularly France, towards her destroyed all chances of success of Republican regime in Germany. Eventually, Hitler rose to power in Germany in 1933.

The Treaty of Versailles of 1919 was partly responsible for the war of 1939.

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4) Grant of a Corridor To Poland:- The grant of a corridor to Poland through Germany divided the Fatherland into two parts and this fact was bitterly resented by the people of Germany.

5) Bad treatment of German Allies:-
Austria was reduced to a tiny state.

6) Strict enforcement of the Reparation Clauses:-
As the Germans had to make the payments within the next 30 years, the fact in itself would have disheartened them to work hard.

7) Deviation from the fourteen points of Wilson:-

8) Competition in Armament:-

9) Hypocrisy of the victors:-

10) Disappointment of Italy:- Very big promises were made to Italy in 1915 when she was persuaded to join the war on the side of the Allies. Yet Italy got very little as compared with what was secured by Britain, France and Japan. The Italian patriots were upset when they were not given territories which were inhabited by Italian speaking people.

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The League of Nations

→ The League of Nations was established under The Treaty of Versailles concluded between the Allied and Associated Powers and Germany on June 28, 1919. A proposal to establish an institution for the purpose of preserving the peace was made of the inter-Allied Conference at Paris on January 25, 1919.

→ Accordingly, the league was established in 1920 under a Covenant of 26 Articles.

→ The US Congress refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, which kept the USA outside the League.

Members:- • The British Empire, • Italy • Japan • China • Switzerland • Norway • Spain • Persia • France

Functions:-

i) The maintenance of international peace and security.

ii) The promotion of international cooperation by the acceptance of obligations.

Working machinery:- Consisted of

i) The Assembly

ii) The Council

iii) The Secretariat

Causes of the failure of the League of Nations:

1) Lack of Universality:-

→ The USA never joined the League, although President Wilson could rightly be called its father.

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→ Upto 1925, even Germany was not a member of the League. When Hitler came to power in German in 1933, Germany left the League.

2) Clause of unanimity :-

3) No revision of the Treaties :-

4) No principle of collective security :-

5) Rise of Dictatorship in Italy, Japan and Germany :-

6) No participation of the people of the world :-

7) Covenant of the League was based on Treaty of Versailles :-

8) Domination of England and France on the League :-

WINSTON CHURCHILL

2 Churchill as a Prime Minister :-

→ Churchill was swept to power by a revolt of the back benches as Lloyd George had been in December 1916.

→ Lloyd George wished to show that he was making all things new and exaggerated his innovations.

→ Churchill venerated traditional institutions and sought to keep them alive. Moreover, he held firmly to his belief that an individual was wrong to go against the party system.

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→ In October 1940, on Chamberlain's resignation, he had himself elected leader of the Conservative Party.

Churchill as a Minister of Defence:-

a) Churchill gave himself the additional title of Minister of Defence. He did not seek parliamentary approval for this.

b) He had no staff other than the military wing of the war cabinet secretariat. It made Churchill supreme dictator of the war on the military side.

c) Churchill announced losses and victories in the House of Commons, appointed and dismissed generals, admirals and field marshals.

d) He was himself an expert on war. He had been a serving army officer. He had directed the admiralty in two world wars.

e) Churchill, in his romantic way, suggested that the conduct of the war would be much improved if some generals or even some chiefs of staff were shot.

f) In its authority, he presided over a Defence Committee composed of two members of the war cabinet, the chief of staff and the service ministers.

g) All the committees, military and civil, acted ultimately at his direction and submitted to his verdicts. He was a good committee-man.

h) Churchill carried the war on his shoulders. He provided political inspiration and leader-

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i) He determined strategy and settled the disputed questions in home policy.
ii) Later in the war he conducted the diplomatic relations with the great allies and sometimes with the small ones as well.

Churchill's greatest contribution to the war:-

→ He provided an all-important psychological boost to a country.
→ He had a brilliant command of words, and his speeches in the Commons, and particularly over the radio were highly effective.

Churchill as PM. for second time:-

→ 1951-55

Death of Churchill:-

On January 24, 1963, Sir Winston Churchill died at the age of 90.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Causes of The Second World War:-

1) Treaty of Versailles Carrying the spirit of revenge:-

2) Japanese Imperialism:-

→ In July 1937, there started a war between Japan and China.
→ In 1941, Japan attacked pearl Harbour.
→ Early she joined the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis.

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3) Rise of dictatorship in Europe:-
Italy entered into an alliance with Germany for ten years.

4) Conflict of ideologies:-
Japan, Italy, Germany V/s Britain, France, USA
↓ ↓
Dictatorship Democracy

5) Weakness of democratic states:-

6) Militarism:- The military preparations of the Axis Powers forced the democratic states to arm themselves.

7) No effective international organization:-
The league of Nation was particularly dead.

8) Economic needs and material interests:-
Both Germany and Italy were struggling hard to acquire colonies for raw materials and markets for surplus goods.

9) Dissatisfaction of the National Minorities:-
The national minorities were intermixed in such a way that the drawing of clear cut frontiers was not possible.

10) Strong feelings of Nationalism:-

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Allied Powers

1- America
2- Britain
3- France
4- USSR
5- China
6- Poland
7- Yogoslavia
8- Greece

Axis powers

1- Germany
2- Italy
3- Japan

Events of Second World War:-

1) **Start: Germany invaded Poland:-** Despite resistance put up by the Poles, they were completely defeated. The Russians also invaded Poland from East. Resultantly, Poland was divided between Germany and Russia.

2) **Russian attacked Finland in 1939:-** The Russians conquered the regions they wanted and ultimately made peace with Finland. Russia also annexed the Baltic States of Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania.

3) **France was attacked by Germany from the side of Belgium:-** After the evacaution of the British troops from Dunkirk, France could not stand against the might of Germany and she surrendered in June 1940.

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4) Entrance of Italy:- The conflicted started between Italy and British forces in North Africa.

5) The Germans attacked Great Britain in autumn of 1940:- A large number of enemy air craft were destroyed and ultimately the German attack began to slow down.

6) Russia was attacked by Germany in June 1941:- The US sent all the necessary war materials to Britain and the Soviet Union to fight against Hitler.

7) Entrance of USA into war:- In December 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and that brought to USA into the war. The British and American troops fought bravely and captured many German territories.

→ There was a revolt in Italy and Mussolini was arrested. So, Italy surrendered unconditionally.

8) Surrender of Germany:- When the armies of under General Eisenhower crossed the Rhine. The Russians also invaded Germany from the East. The Germans could not fight on two fronts and Hitler committed suicide.

Eventually, their successors surrendered unconditionally on May 7, 1945.

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8) Surrender of Japan: End of War:-

On August 6, 1945, an atom bomb was thrown on the city of Hiroshima and it is estimated that more than one lac of persons were destroyed by one single bomb. Japan was asked to surrender and when she refused another atom bomb was thrown on August 9, 1945 on the city of Nagasaki. On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered unconditionally.

Effects of the War on Britain:-

1) Involvement of the Civilian Population:-

1- The Emergency Powers Act of 1940
2- Adoption of Conscription
3- Public Cooperation against German attack
4- Full employment and Price Stability

2) Eradication of social problems:-

3) Political Effects of the War:- The election of a labour government with a huge majority in July 1945.

4) Economic effects of the war:- Economically, the cost of the war was ruinous for Britain. In 1939, her gold reserves stooped at 3 million. By the autumn of 1945, Britain overseas debts stood at well over 3000 million.

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5) Effects of Britain's world position:- The war revealed the USA and the USSR as the world's most powerful states while Britain, though victorious, was now only a second rate power.

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